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MISCELLANEOUS COLONIAL DOCUMENTS.

FROM THE ORIGINALS IN THE VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES.

ORDER FOR ARREST OF NEGROES,¹ 1709.

By the hon'ble the President.

You are hereby ordered & required with the assistance of the Guard now appointed you, and such other as you shall find necessary for the Service (whom you Are hereby empowered to impress) to apprehend & Secure the Several Negroes here under named and to bring them forthwith before me. And for so doing this shall be yo'r Warrant.

Given under my hand this 20th day of March 1709.

To Jno. Bently & James Hubbert or either of them.

E. JENINGS.

Negroes names,

Angola peter at the plantacon late of Albertus Warren
Pamba his wife,

Bumbara peter at Coll. Brays old plantacon,

Mingo at Wm. Davis's,

Robin at Mr. Powers's.

[Endorsed]

Warrant for apprehending Negroes in Burton Parish 20th March 1709.

GUNPOWDER IN THE COLONIAL STOREHOUSE, 1710.

Virg'a.

To His Exc'ly & the Hon'ble Councill of State:

Edward Ross² Sheweth.

That yo'r petion'r haveing under his Care between Sixty

¹ The offence for which these negroes were to be arrested does not appear. Probably they were charged with plotting an insurrection.

² Lieutenant Edward Ross lived at Jamestown, and appears to have for some time had charge of the military stores of the colony.

& Seventy barr'ls of Powder belonging to Her most Sacred Maj'ty. And whereas by the Reason of the Long lying of the S'd Powder in soe Small a place as it is in, the hoops are very much flown & broke, Soe that it Cannot be Removed unless it be New hoop'd, And that it will Conduce much to her Maj'tys Service to have ye Same Speedily done Desires an Order for the Same &c.

[Endorsed]

Edw'd Ross's peticon.

ab't 1710.

COMMISSION OF PHILIP LUDWELL³ AS DEPUTY AUDITOR
GENERAL.

Alexander Spotwood. Her Majestys Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia. To Philip Ludwell Esq'r Greeting.

Whereas William Blathwayt Esq'r Surveyor and Auditor of Her Majestys Revenues arising in America did by Commission under his hand and Seal bearing date the tenth day of October 1705 nominate constitute and appoint Dudley Digges Esq'r to be his Deputy and Under Officer to inspect examine state & audit all accounts of all Rents, Revenues, prizes, fines, Escheats, Seizures, forfeitures, Dutys and profits whatsoever arising and growing due to her Majesty within the Colony and Dominion of Virginia to have and enjoy the said Office so long as the said William Blathwayt should please and think fitt. And Whereas by the Death of the said Dudley Digges the aforesaid place and Office of Deputy Auditor of her Maj'ties Revenues is become vaccant and it being necessary for her maj'ties Service that the same should be speedily supplied I therefore reposing especial Trust and Confidence in Your Loyaltie, prudence and fidelity, do by

³ Dudley Digges, of Bellefield, York county (died January 18, 1710-11,) son of Edward Digges, Governor of Virginia, was Auditor-General of Virginia from 1705 until his death. Philip Ludwell, of "Green Spring," James City county (died January 11, 1726-7,) held the office until 1716, when he was succeeded by Peter Beverley.

virtue of the authority to me granted by her Majesty, hereby constitute and appoint you to execute the said Trust and Office of Deputy Auditor of her Majestys Revenues, and to inspect examine state & audit the accounts of all Rents Dutys and profitts arising or falling due unto her Majesty in this her Colony and Dominion. To have hold and enjoy the said Office and Trust untill another shall be duly constituted and appointed to execute the same by the said William Blathwayt or such other Person as shall have Authority to depute and appoint the said Officer. And You are further directed during Your continuance in that Office to observe the Rules and Directions mentioned aforecited Commission to Dudley Diggs Esq'r and all other. Instructions given by the said William Blathwayt for the better management of that Trust. And for so doing this shall be Your Warrant.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Colony this fourteenth day of March 1710 in the tenth year of her Maj'ties Reign.

A. SPOTSWOOD.

[Endorsed]

Coll'o Ludwell's Commission p. Auditor.

[Sealed with Colonial Seal, motto: En dat Virginia quintam.]

PROPOSAL IN REGARD TO THE GOVERNOR'S HOUSE⁴ (ABOUT 1710).

Proposal.

For rendring the new House Convenient as well as Ornamental.

That such necessary places as Stable, Coatch house, Cow house & Hen house together with an enclosed Yard for Poultry be made.

That a Kitchen, Garden and Orchard be paled in at least.

That a Flower Garden behind the House as well as the

⁴ See the Magazine, XVI, 83, for another paper in regard to the Governor's house.

Court yard before it be enclosed with a Brick wall 4 foot high with a Ballustrade of Wood on the Top.

That the Land belonging to the House being about 60 acres may be enclosed with a Ditch & Fence for a Pasture.

That 3 doz. strong fashionable Chairs & 3 large Tables 3 large looking Glasses, & four Chimney Glasses be bought for the furniture of the lower Apartments, as also one Marble Buffette or Sideboard w'th a Cistern & fountain.

That the great room in the second Story be furnished with gilt Leather hangings, 16 Chairs of the same, two large looking glasses with the Arms of the Colony on them according to the new Mode, two small Tables to stand under the Looking Glasses and two Marble Tables, Eight Glass Sconces.

That there be one large looking Glass more for the largest of the Bed Chambers and four Chimney Glasses for the said Floor.

One great Lanthorn for the Hall.

That all standing Furniture for the Kitchen and Brew house such as a Copper for washing, another for brewing Stove Irons and other things that must necessarily be fixed to the House be bought & furnished at the publick Charge.

[Endorsed]

Mr. Robertson for the house Furniture, &c., for the Palace.
[About 1710 probably.]

SALE OF WOOL AND INDIGO, 1714.

These Are to Give Notice to all Gentlemen, that there is to be Sold at Publick Outcry on fryday Next y'e 5th Novemb'r, In Hampton Town Sixteen Pockets Cotton Wool Together with about Twelve Hundred-Weight of Indico, Lately Imported & Landed from y'e Ship Galliard, Now at Hampton, by y'e Permission of

G. LUKE, Coll'o & Principal officer
in this District for time being.

[Endorsed]

Mr. Lukes advertisement—1714.

LETTER IN REGARD TO THE DUTY ON IMPORTED NEGROES, &C.
Northumberland County, Ss, Septemb'r 4th, 1713.

To the Honorable Alexander Spotswood, Esq'r; her Maj'ties,
Leu't Governor, Commander in Chief of Virginia:

The Humble petition of John Ingram in all Humility Sheweth that on the second day of July Last past there came a Negro Man to this County and had with him a Clause of a will and Certificate from under Two Justices Hands the will sett the s'd Negro Free & the Certificate Confirm'd the same to be true with this will and Certificate this Negro past for some time and would fain have some of the Justices of y'e peace to review the same and to give him a pass to go on board Some Ship bound for London whereupon he was Adviced to come to your petition'r who Narrowly Inspected his papers had a strong Susspition that he was Run away; whereupon y'e petition'r apprehended the s'd Negro, and because he had passed So Long and no body regarding him y'e petition'r sent his papers to the Honorable Rob't Carter & prayed his Advices who was soon of the same Opinion that he was run away; by whose Advice I proceeded to Scourge y'e s'd Negro and thereby brought him to Confession; that he was a runaway Slave belonging to one George Fergusson a liver in Maryland In the Eastern Shore whereupon Immeadly Committed him to the Custody of the Shir: and Adviced him to send his s'd Master word who accordingly did; but so it happened May it please y'r Hono'r, that when his master came he was Loath to Carry his Negro away & profess he was Never Guilty of that Crime before and that he could saw plank & told y'r petitionn'r that if I would Give him an Other good Neg'r Man and pay Some part of the Charge he was at he would Leave him with me; y'r petitionn'r who haveing a Small Occation of Sum plank was Deluded to Change and Gave him another good Honest Negro man for his run away, since which Time I find him to be an Idle fellow; and I Live in Continuall fear of his runing away from me; yet Soe it happens May it please your Hono'r, that Not-

withstanding the Disadvantage I had in the Exchange there is a Rumor rais'd by Sum that are no well wishers. To your petitionn'r, that there is Five pound to be paid or the Negro forfeited by reason to runaway from Maryland; Your petitionn'r w'th Submission to better Judgm't, Humbly Conceives that the Law relateing to Imported Negros hath no regard to runaways & Especially where there is no fraud nor Collusion In the parties; the Negro I now have is a Marylander borne and bred, Which sort of Negros I humbly Conceive were not thought on by the Makers of y'e Law, nither could they think to Raise much Money by the Natives of Maryland, nither is there any fear of many of those Negros coming to overstock this Countrey. May it please your Hon'r had the s'd Negro (being born in Maryland) been Actually Imported here to be sold I Suppose it would have come within the words of the Law but not within the Meaning thereof provided the makers thereof Used y'e Same Reason for Negros as that did for Indians; to bring an Indian here by Water is five pounds, but to bring one by Land is but Twenty Shill; w'ch is a plaine Demonstration y't y'e Impossession was Designed for those Countreys from w'ch in all Likelyhood there would Most Come; Such an Accident as this w'th Submission to your Hon'r its Like never was; nor ever may be againe; now as to the Importer which ye Law Mention there is none As I know of, to which it may be Answer'd; that by ye Instruction to ye Collectors; he that Layes claime to the goods Shall be Esteemed the Importer; w'th Submission I presume this is meant where there Is an Importer and by Some Clandestine means has Landed ye good on Designe to Defraud the Officers of the Imposition; but may it please your Hon'r none of these fraudulent designs are in this Cace; to all this it might be Objected y't the words of the Law are Generall & saith from any port or place whatsoever, to w'ch it might be Answered that ye Reason of y't might be that without Such Generall words Those persons that bring Negros from fouraine Countreys might have Landed y'm Ither in North Carroliner or in Mary-

land and So have made y'm Travell here by Land and by that Means have Defeated the Whole Intent and Meaning of ye Law, May it please your Honour, I have always understood that it was the policy of all Statesmen to Lay the greatest Impossession on y't Commodity that was Like to Overburden there Nation & by which they could hope to raise most Money to Defray publick Charges & if Soe by Maryland Negroes they Could never Expect to Raise Much Money and as to ye other Reason one coming & another going In his room has made no Addition to the Countrey; and to take any Law by the Strick words without the Intent would many time make that which was Intended for good prove Evill; for may it please your Hon'r, Should a man out of this Countrey travell Into Carrolina, Penselvanie or Maryland, &c., and one of his Negros born in this Countrey to wait on him and after Ither send him or bring him into this Collony per ye words of ye Law he must pay five pounds; or if a man Living here has a plantation In Maryland and Send Some of his Negros there for a short Time and After send for them back againe, he Imports them, & must pay five pounds, which could never be the Meaning of the Law makers no more then to think to Raise Money for Negros borne in Maryland. I have always thought it (and I hope will your Hon'r), that it is a good and pious rule to Straine the Strings of ye Law to ye Highest tune to bring in wilfull Offenders; and if Innocent persons be relived by Equity from the Strick words of the Law, I hope it will be my fourtune; upon these and the Like Consideration your petitioner went to Mr. Thomas Lee, Naval Officer and acquainted him with ye truth of the Cace as it is here Represented who Considering the Same told your petitioner that I would doe well to Represent it to your Hon'r. And that he was willing to stay till I could Conveniently doe the Same and Desired to have it done before the Generall Court; and Said y't Considering the Innocece of the fact; was not Satisfied, That it Lay within the Meaning of the Law; whereupon y'r most humble petitioner Craves Leave to Lay this paper at your Hon'rs feet beseech-

ing you to pardon all Imperfection & Impertinances here inscribed, and to make Such award, Order, Judgm't or decree as to your Hon'r Shall Seem most Meet and Convenient, and your petitioner further prayes y't y'r Honour would Send y'r pleasure to Mr. Thomas Lee Navall Officer and your petitioner as in duty bound. Ever Shall Most Humly Pray,

[Endorsed]

Petition of John Ingram, Rec'd Sept. 10th, 1713.

COMMISSION PRO TEM. OF JAMES BLAIR⁵ AS DEPUTY AUDITOR.

Alexander Spotswood, Her Majestys Lieutenant Governor
and Commander in Chief of the Colony and Dominion
of Virginia.

To James Blair Esq'r, Greeting:

Whereas William Blathwayt Esq'r Surveyor and Auditor of her Majestys Revenues arising in America did by Commission under his hand and Seal bearing date the fourth day of October, 1711, nominate Constitute and appoint Philip Ludwell Esq'r to be Deputy and Under officer to inspect examine State and audit all accompts of all Rents Revenues prizes Fines Escheats Seizures Forfeitures Dutys and profits whatsoever arising & growing due to Her Majesty within this Colony and Dominion of Virginia to have & enjoy the said Office as long as the said William Blathwayt should please & think fitt. And whereas the said Philip Ludwell is lately departed out of this Colony for Great Brittain where his affairs may require his abode for some time, whereby the s'd office of Deputy Auditor of her Majestys Revenues is during his absence become Vaccant and it being necessary for her Majestys Service that ye same be speedily supply'd. I therefore reposing special Trust and confidence in your loyalty prudence and fidelity, Do by virtue of the authority to me granted by her Majesty hereby Constitute and appoint You to execute the s'd Trust and office of Deputy Auditor

⁵ This was Dr. James Blair, President of William and Mary College.

of her Majestys Revenues And to inspect examine and State and audit the accounts of all Rents dutys and profits arising or falling due unto her Majesty within this her Colony & Dominion. To Have, Hold and enjoy the said office and Trust untill the arrival in this Colony of the s'd Philip Ludwell or some other person duly constituted & appointed to execute the same. And you are hereby directed during your continuance in that office to observe the Rules and directions mentioned in the afore recited Commission to Philip Ludwell Esq'r, and all other Instructions given by the said William Blathwayt for the better management of the s'd Trust. And for so doing this shal be your Warrant.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Colony this thirty first day of July 1713 in the Twelfth year of her Majestys Reign.

A. SPOTSWOOD.

[Endorsed]

Commission to James Blair, Esq'r, to be Deputy Auditor—
1713.

JOHN WALLER⁶ TO GOVERNOR SPOTSWOOD, 1714.

To the hon'ble Alexander Spotswood, her Ma'ty's Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of Virginia, in Council:

John Waller.

Humbly sheweth,

That Your Honour having granted him the Agency of Queen's Storehouse on Mattaponi River, he the said John Waller after acknowledging with all gratitude Your Hon'rs favour therein, humbly takes leave to acquaint you that he is very desirous to relinquish the said Storehouse, and prays Your Hon'r would please to accept of such Relinquishment.

And he shall pray, &c.

⁶ John Waller, of King and Queen county—afterwards of "Newport," Spotsylvania county—where he died in 1754.

[Endorsed]

John Wallers' pet'n for a Relinquish't of Agency, Oct'r, 1714.

RELIEF FOR VIRGINIA VOLUNTEERS' IN SOUTH CAROLINA SERVICE, 1715, (FROM GOVERNOR SPOTSWOOD?)

Gent'n.

Being exceedingly concern'd for the unjust delay w'ch the Govern't of South Carolina hath used in performing the Engagements to the Voluntiers listed in this Country, and being sensible that the Wives & Familys of many of them suffer through that disappointment I am desirous to advance a Sum of money for the Relief of such of them as are most in necessity, as I have already done to some who have made application to me, upon the Credit of what their Husbands are entitled to for their service; but because it is better known to you than to me, which of 'em are fittest objects of Relief, I desire you will appoint two or three of yo'r bench at some convenient time and place to examine into ye Circumstances of the Familys of such of the s'd Voluntiers as were listed in yo'r County, and accordingly to return the names of those you judge most necessitous, that I may give Orders for their Relieff. At the same time you will give notice to all persons who have Assignments upon the pay of those Voluntiers, either as Creditors or Attorneys to deliver in to the Gentlemen appointed by you an accompt of their Respective Claims or pretensions, of which I desire you will cause a true Report to be made to me.

¹ In 1715 the Governor of South Carolina, then engaged in an Indian war, requested assistance of men from Virginia. South Carolina proposed, in order to pay the men, to send to Virginia slaves to the number of volunteers, to work on the plantations for their benefit. The Council agreed to comply with the request, and to defray the charges incurred until the men should reach South Carolina; and for this purpose the Governor and Council postponed the payment of their own salaries. Early in July Spotswood dispatched a number of men and arms.

[Endorsed]

Letter to York Justices to Certify ye Objects of Relief in
ye County—20th feb'ry, 1715.

PETITION OF THOMAS MEADES TO THE GOVERNOR.

Feb'ry, ye 2nd, 1715.

Essex County, Ss.

To The Hon'r'ble Alexander Spotswood, His Maj'tys Lieut.
Govern'r and Commander In Chief of Virginia:

The Petition of Thomas Meades,

Humbly Sheweth:

That Whereas your petitioner being Summons'd by the Sheriff of ye Said County to appear and Serve as a Jury-man to Lay of ye Land In Difference between Mr. Thos. Corbin & James Walker: your petitioner at ye Same Time Informed ye S'd Sheriff y't he was willing to Serve provided he was able at ye Time appointed but much Doubting y't he Should by reason your petitioner has for these Several years been afflicted with a very Lane Legg w'ch is Reduced to y't weakness that a very Little Thing puts my knee out of joynt which hapned ye Very Day before ye jury was to meet; Which Rendered your petitioner Wholy incapable of any Such Service. Notwithstanding ye Sheriff Returned your petitioner summons'd and ye Hon'r'ble General Court has Fined your petitioner Two Hund'd and forty pounds of Tobb'o and your petition'r Very unable to pay the Same Most Humbly begs that your hon'r will be pleas'd out of your Clemency to Remit ye Said fine and your petitioner Shall in Duty bound Ever pray.

THOMAS MEADES.

[Endorsed]

Tho's Meads pet'n for remitting a fine—1715.

[INSTRUCTIONS TO THE COMMANDER OF THE VIRGINIA SOLDIERS SENT TO SOUTH CAROLINA IN 1715.]

Instructions to Capt'n Peter Evans.

You are upon your going on board the Sloop William with the men under your command to take an acco't of the quantity of Provisions of each species laid in for the Subsistance of the said men on their Voyage to Charlestown, and to take care that ye same be equally distributed among the men so far as shal be necessary without any wast or Embezzlement; and upon y'r arrival at Charlestown to take also an acco't of the quantity of each species then remaining, which acco'ts respectively you are to sign jointly with the M'r of the Sloop, and by him transmitt to me that the quantity of provisions expended may be the better known.

Upon y'r arrival at Charlestown you are to apply to ye Governor or in his absence to the Council, and communicate y'r Powers and Instructions.

You are to take charge as well of the Forces already sent from hence to South Carolina as those you now carry with you, and to instruct both the officers and soldiers in Military Discipline; and in the first place that part of the Exercise whereby they may become most ready at Loading and firing and in marching.

You are in drawing y'r men together for Exercise to have regard to the disposition the Governor of South Carolina hath made thereof in the Garrisons, or shal hereafter make till they take the Feild and in all cases so to forme y'r designs of disciplining y'r men to Suit the measures taken by that Government for the defence of their Country.

Whereas sev'll men were Embark'd at Hampton on board the Morant, whose names I do not certainly know, you are by the first opportunity to transmitt to me an Exact Muster Roll of all ye men sent from Virg'a and you are also from time to time to take an acco't of and transmitt to me the day of the death or desertion of every one of the s'd men who shal happen to desert or dy in this Service.

And whereas I have received Overtures from the Cattabaw, Cherokee, & other Indian Nations living to ye Northwest of that Province for setting on Foot a Treaty of peace. You are to apply y'r self to ye Governor of South Carolina so

to dispose of the Virginia Forces as that they may not act offensively against those Indians untill A reasonable time be allow'd for their Messengers who set out from hence three days ago to communicate my orders for a Cessation to their Several Towns but that the said Forces may be employed rather ag'd the Yamoosees or other Southern Indians till y't said time be expired and that it be known whether ye said Northern Indians will remitt their hostilities.

And you are by all opportunitys to communicate to me all remarkable Occurrences, and whatever else you judge for the advantage of the Service wherein you are engaged.

Dated in Virg'a ye 22d July, 1715.

[Endorsed]

Instructions to Cap't Peter Evans—1715.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

REVOLUTIONARY ARMY ORDERS

For the Main Army under Washington. 1778-1779.

(From Originals in the Collection in the Virginia Historical Society.)

(CONTINUED.)

Head Quarters April 30, 1778.

Brigadier Gen'l to-morrow McIntosh.

F. O. Lieutenant Colonel Harmer & Maj'r Buchard.

Brigade Major McComack.

The Inspector from the 2d Pensylvania Brigade.

found near Gen'l Woodford's Brigade a small Seal set in pinch-beck one side plane the other a head with two faces—it is with the Commanding Officer of the Brigade.